

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2615

ANSWERED ON:15.12.2015

Support for Poor Sports Students

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Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any programme for supporting students from economically weaker backgrounds to take up sports and represent India globally;
- (b) whether sports are being encouraged at school level, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has any plans to set up sports complex and sporting hubs in the State of Andhra Pradesh for promoting Olympic Sports, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

(SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)

(a) Preparation and training of Indian sportspersons including those belonging to economically weaker sections of society and participation in international sports events is taken care of under the Ministry's scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations. Expenditure on diet, food supplements, sports equipments, travel and stay etc. is met from the grants sanctioned under scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations.

(b) As Sports is a State subject, the primary responsibility for promoting sports including encouraging sports among students at the school level is that of the States. However, Department of Sports and the Sports Authority of India supplement the efforts of the States. School Games Federation of India (SGFI) and Association of Indian Universities (AIU) have been recognized by the Government of India as National Sports Promotion Organizations (NSPOs) and are eligible for the assistance as is available to National Sports Federations (NSFs).

For identifying talent and nurturing and training the identified talent in the age group of 8 to 18 years, which is mainly from schools and colleges, the Sports Authority of India is running the following schemes:

(i) National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC): The main objective of the scheme is to identify gifted and talented sportspersons among school children in the age group of 8-14 years.

(ii) Army Boys Sports Companies (ABSC) is implemented in collaboration with the Army. Children in the age group of 8-16 years are imparted scientific training to achieve excellence at national and international levels. The scheme also provides job opportunities in the Indian Army.

(iii) Special Area Games (SAG): This Scheme follows an area-specific approach to scout and nurture talent for modern competitive games and sports from tribal, rural, coastal and hilly areas of the country. The main objective of the scheme is to train talented and meritorious sportspersons in the age group of 12-18 years.

(iv) SAI Training Centres (STC): Under this scheme, talented youth in the age group of 12-18 years are given the option to join the scheme on residential or non-residential basis.

(v) Centres of Excellence (COX): The main objective of this scheme is to identify and train outstanding sportspersons who are medal prospects for the country in international competitions.

Trainees under the above-mentioned schemes are provided with stipend, sports kit, accidental insurance, as well as competition exposure.

(c) & (d): Since 'Sports' is a State subject, it is the responsibility of the State Government to set up sports complex and sporting hubs in the State of Andhra Pradesh for promoting Olympic sports. However, the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, supplementing the efforts of State Government, has provided financial assistance to the State of Andhra Pradesh, for following sports projects under its Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme (USIS):

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(Rs. in crore)

S. No.

Project

Year

Grant approved

Grant released

1.

Construction of multi-purpose indoor hall at Agricultural College, Bapatla, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh

2013-14

6.00

4.20

2.

Laying of synthetic athletic track at Acharya Nagarjuna University, Nagarjunanagar, District Guntur, Andhra Pradesh

2014-15

5.50

1.00 </pre>

Further, during 2015-16, the following two projects have been approved for sanction under Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme (USIS):-

- (i) Laying of synthetic athletic track at IGMC Stadium, Vijayawada
- (ii) Multi-purpose indoor hall at Vidyadharapuram, Vijayawada

Further, Sports Authority of India (SAI), in collaboration with the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, is implementing the following sports promotion scheme in the State:

? National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC)

? SAI Training Centre (STC)

At present, 05 SAI centres are operational in the state as per the details given below:

? NSTC adopted VPS Public School at Vijaywada

? STC at Illuru

? STC at Kurnul

? STC at Vishakhapattanam

? Extension Centre of STC at Andhra Loyolla College, Vijaywada

At present, 201 trainees (141 Boys and 60 Girls) selected from various parts of the state are trained in eight sports disciplines in SAI Centres.
